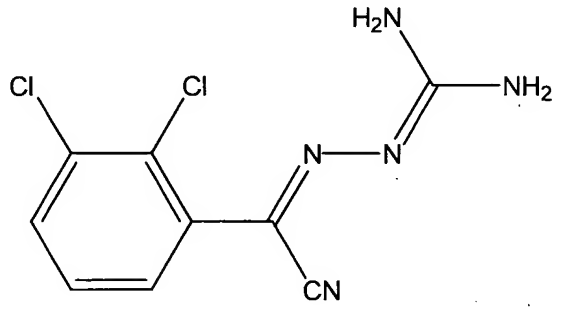
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the intermediate 2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-2-(aminoguanidine)acetonitrile, of formula (II):



(II)

which comprises the reaction of 2,3-dichlorobenzoyl cyanide with aminoguanidine bicarbonate, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it is carried out in non-aqueous medium in the presence of methanesulphonic acid as the only reaction medium.

2. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 20 to 80°C.

3. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said reaction is carried out within a temperature range of 30 to 60°C.

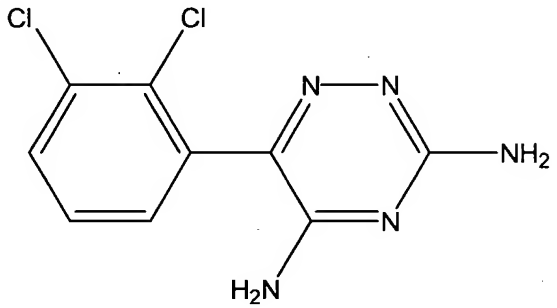
4. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, once the reaction has finished, it comprises an additional step that consists in:

(i) addition of water; and

(ii) adjustment of the pH of the medium until a pH higher than the pKa of the hydrogen cyanide is achieved.

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein in ii), said adjustment of the pH is carried out by adding a sodium hydroxide solution.

6. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing the 3,5-diamino-6-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-1,2,4-triazine, of formula (I):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises the following steps:

a) preparation of the intermediate 2-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)-2-(aminoguanidine)acetonitrile, of formula (II), according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1;

b) cyclisation of said intermediate of formula (II) in an aliphatic alcohol or in an aliphatic alcohol/water solution under reflux; and, if desired, obtaining a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said aliphatic alcohol used in step b) may be chosen from between ethanol and isopropanol.